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To the Editor
The New York Times

The comments attributed to Attorney General Mitchell in Women's Wear Daily (N.Y. Times, Sept. 19), if correct, raise among other questions a serious one with regard to legislation ~~now~~ pending in Congress. I refer to bills now in conference (S.3246 and H.R.18693) that would place the main responsibility for regulating drug-related activities, including research, under the Justice Department rather than the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Attorney General of the U.S. is quoted as having said the "the pushers are importing the cannabis plant from other countries. The same kind of stuff that opium smokers use. It's hashish and you can really become addicted to it."

It would be difficult to pile up more erroneous statements in so few words. Marijuana is cannabis plant and so is hashish, a stronger variety growing in some parts of the world. They have no relation, botanical or pharmacological, to opium, the product of the opium poppy. All medical evidence concurs that cannabis products, whatever their strength, are not addictive.

It is ironical that these statements should supposedly have been made by Mr. Mitchell in the same interview in which he allegedly referred to students and professors as "uninformed" and "stupid bastards." His alleged ominous prediction that our country "is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it" is probably based on equally solid factual knowledge.

But persons like myself, less concerned with comparative intelligence testing than in the administration of laws that affect biomedical problems, feel justified in asking Congress to reject the proposed legislation and to place the responsibility for the study and supervision of drug problems (except illegal sales) where it belongs, that is, in the H.E.W. Department.

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